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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Robert Lee Thompson Applicant: 09/965,136

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, and pursuant to the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this Response.